

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE
AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
149TH RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 149th Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 30 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 26-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed nine weeks of EMT training and fourteen weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter 1/11 by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force 1, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community and I commend them for all that they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world. As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 149th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 149th Recruit Class.

Mohamed Ahmed
Patrick Alden
Jayquan Anderson
Andrew Bryant Jr.
Zachery Buttenshaw
Nicolas Cicero
Alexander Clark
Matthew Clark
Alexander Cope
David Danielson
Justin Efav
Rickardo Evans
Kassandra Haakansson
Ashley Heck
Marcin Ligocki
Tyler Lomax
Rachel Long
Shannon Martin
Johnathan Matrone
Cameron Mazhari

JohnPaul McGurk
Frank Merritt
Kent Miller
Caleb Mitchell
Matthew Mullins
Patrick O'Connor
Von Powell
Shane Scott
Matthew Smalley
Dominique Wallace

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

MAYA CALDERON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Maya Calderon for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Maya Calderon is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Maya Calderon is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Maya Calderon for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**HONORING MAYOR GREG HANDSHY
OF SOUTH TOMS RIVER**

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Greg Handshy of South Toms River. A former U.S. National Guardsman and member of American Legion Post 129, Mayor Handshy continues his dedication to public service as he enters his 10th year as an elected official, with three of those years serving as Mayor.

Greg is a retired member of Plumbers and Pipefitters UA Local 9 where he worked as a licensed plumber. True to his nature, Greg has always been willing to help his neighbors by volunteering to fix a plumbing leak or assist in local food bank distributions.

His impact is felt throughout South Toms River through the many social programs he has spearheaded. He is the founder of the South Toms River Community Garden which has brought joy to green thumbs and fans of garden vegetables alike. He also started the very successful After School Homework Club

that provides young people in the community both academic and recreational opportunities.

I am so very proud to have leaders such as Mayor Handshy in my district and on behalf of all of the constituents of the New Jersey 3rd Congressional District, I thank Mayor Handshy for years of selfless service to our community.

**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
STILLBIRTH PREVENTION ACT
OF 2022**

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, today, I proudly introduced the bipartisan and bicameral Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act of 2022, alongside Representative HINSON, Senator MERKLEY, and Senator CASSIDY.

For too long, stillbirth has been a silent crisis. According to a recent study, nearly 1 in 4 stillbirths are potentially preventable. And the data comparing the United States to other countries informs that our nation can do more to prevent stillbirth.

In our nation, an alarming 23,500 babies are stillborn every year. This is greater than the number of babies that die during the first year of life and more than ten times the number of babies that die annually due to sudden infant death syndrome.

While the rate of stillbirth has declined since the 1940s due to improvements in maternity care, in recent years, the decline has slowed or halted. Stillbirths increase the risk of maternal mortality and morbidity and negatively impact parental mental health and family well-being.

Like many of the health crises in our country, disparities exist, and Black women are over two times more likely than White women to have a stillbirth. Stillbirth rates are also high for American Indian or Alaska Native women, who are almost 1.5 times as likely to have a stillbirth compared to White women. Hispanic women also experience higher rates.

Despite impacting families from all backgrounds and women with otherwise healthy pregnancies, stillbirth is more common for women who are 35 years or older, of lower socioeconomic status, for women who have multiple pregnancies, like twins or triplets, and women who have already experienced the loss of a pregnancy.

In addition, stillbirth also occurs more commonly amongst women who smoke while pregnant or are diagnosed with certain medical conditions like hypertension, diabetes, or obesity.

Further, women from less advantaged backgrounds and who are marginalized, continue to experience a greater burden of stillbirth. And these disadvantages are further impacted by the social determinants of health. For example, women in maternity care deserts and rural areas have fewer healthcare providers. Nationwide, approximately 10 percent of births take place in counties with limited access to maternity care.

According to The Lancet, in a 2016 study, the United States ranked number 48 out of 49 high-income countries in annual stillbirth rate reduction. Furthermore, in comparison with the